

# Building Energy Data Sub-Program

Monday, April 15, 2019

Harry Bergmann

Data Infrastructure Fellow, Emerging Technologies

# Schedule

---

- **11:30-12:00 – Introduction to Portfolio**
- **12:00-12:30 – Overview of Standards & related efforts**
- **12:30-1:30 – Lunch**
- **1:30-2:15 – Overview of Management & Analysis tools**
- **2:15-3:00 – Unstructured Data**
- **3:00-3:30 – Discussion & Questions**
- **3:30-4:00 – Break**
- **4:00-4:45 – Asset Score**
- **4:45-5:30 – Home Energy Score**
- **5:30-6:00 – Wrap up & Discussion (REVIEWERS ONLY)**

# Overview of the Day

---

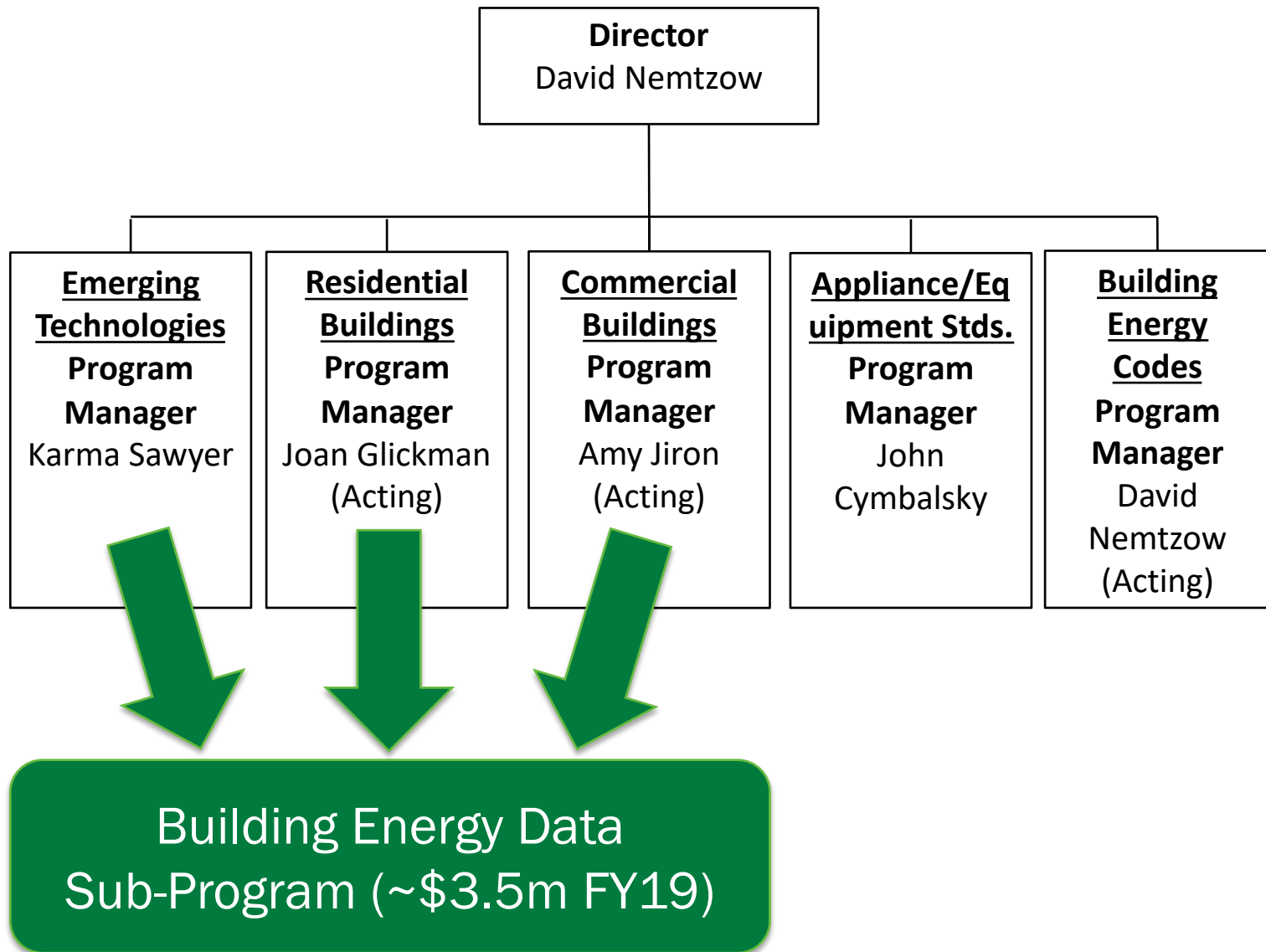
- **Part 1: Program Overview (11:30 – 11:50)**
  - BTO's View of the Market & Portfolio Criteria Overview
- **Part 2: Standardization (11:50 – 12:30)**
  - BEDES, BuildingSync/HPXML, UBID, Brick
- **Lunch (12:30 – 1:30)**
- **Part 3: Tools & Analytics(1:30 – 2:15)**
  - SEED, Audit Template/Asset Score, BPD, EDV
- **Part 4: Future Direction & Investments (2:15 – 3:00)**
  - AirBEM, Unstructured Data
  - Increasing velocity of data generated

# Who am I?

- **B.A. in Geography with GIS minor – GWU**
- **Master in Environmental Science & Management – Bren School, UC Santa Barbara**
  - Thesis: Developed a business model around EE & water improvements for low income multifamily housing.
- **Southern California Regional Energy Network Project Manager – The Energy Coalition**
  - Worked with local public agencies providing turnkey energy efficiency project delivery services.
- **Data Infrastructure Fellow – Building Technologies Office**



# What are we talking about?



# Mission & Goals of the BED Sub-Program

## Vision

- Data serves as the starting point for working toward a more efficient, equitable, affordable, and resilient built environment.

## Mission

- To provide a freely available network of tools and resources, built upon standards, that enable the fluid exchange of building energy and attribute data in order to better achieve energy efficiency savings in the built environment.

## Goals

- Develop a network of interoperable tools on which the private sector can build specialized services.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to produce easily-adopted standards and exchange specifications to promote interoperability.
- Deliver products which enable planners, owners/investors, utilities, regulators, and others to make better informed strategic decisions.

# What to Watch For:

- **Scope: Does our area of work make sense for BTO?**
- **Impact: How much of the market are we affecting?**
  - Working across commercial & residential, major state & local governments
- **Coordination & Collaboration: How well are we engaging with stakeholders?**
  - Industry partnerships, government, non-profit, etc.
- **Metrics: Are we showing appropriate improvement and growth rates?**
  - Adoption is increasing, usership is growing alongside market penetration
  - Tools are incorporated into programs and policies at an accelerating rate

# **Part I: Introduction & Strategic Overview**

## **The Market Through BTO's Eyes**

# Part I: Agenda

---

## **Some definitions and examples**

- Modeled vs. measured, etc.
- Use cases for different types of data

## **Issues**

- Availability
- Standardization
- Provenance

## **Role of government**

## **Current and future program**

# Ground Rules: Data is measured, not modeled.

## Measured data

- Observations
- Use cases: benchmarking, inputs for modeling (black box or white box)
- Issues: collection, “quality”, provenance, privacy, standards

## Not dealing with modeled “data”, i.e., modeling outputs

- Measured data + assumptions + calculations
- Use cases: what-if analysis (optimization, planning), normalized calculations (codes, ratings)

# Types of Data

## **“Static” (relative to use case) → typically interpreted as assets/operations**

- High-level – location, use-type, floor area, system type, operating hours, setpoints
- Detailed – geometry, constructions, equipment, lighting, schedules, sequences
- “fixed” for analytical purposes → can be a time series, can be stochastic

## **“Dynamic” (relative to the use case)**

- Energy use
- Indoor/outdoor conditions – temperature, humidity, lighting levels, CO2, air-quality, wind, solar, etc.
- Momentary system state – equipment on/off/PLR
- Other relevant variables – occupancy, occupant behavior, etc.
- (Raw) time series or aggregation/reduction

## **Temporal resolution**

- Granularity/frequency: instantaneous → 30-sec → 15-min → hr → day → month → year
- Range/duration (> granularity)

# Spatial Resolution

Applicable to both static and dynamic data

“Building” – is there an unambiguous definition?

## Smaller than a building

- Tenant Suite → Zone → Circuit/Space → Occupant/Person → Sensor/Control-Point
- End-use System → Sub-system/component → Sensor/Control-Point
- Same granularity/range concepts as temporal resolution

## Bigger than a building

- District → City → State → Region → Country
- Portfolio – may or may not be geographically contiguous or connected by systems

Some things (e.g., meter) can be both bigger or smaller than a building

How small or big makes sense?



# Example Applications & Use Cases

## **ESPM & BPD → benchmarking**

- Country: Building → [HL assets, HL operations, annual energy-use]
- Spatial range: spatial granularity → [data descriptors]

## **BayREN BRICR → retrofit program-planning, screening**

- City: Building → [HL assets, HL operations, monthly energy-use]

## **Asset Score → rating, retrofit recommendations**

- Building: Building → [detailed assets]

## **Qcoefficient → MPC**

- Building: Subsystem → [detailed assets, 15-min energy-use, 15-min zone-conditions]

## **URBANopt → district master-planning, district system design**

- District: Building → [HL assets, HL operations, 15-min energy-use]

**Which use-cases are most important to DOE?**

# Issue: Collection & Availability

	Public		Private				
	ESPM BPD	SEED	Audit	BAS	SEED	AMI GButton	SubMeter
High-level asset/operation	Y	Y					
Detailed asset/operation			Y		Y		
Annual/Monthly Energy Use	Y	Y	Y				
15-min Energy Use						Y	Y
15-min Subsystem Energy Use							Y
15-min HVAC State/Zone Temp				Y			

**What data is collected? What applications does it support?**

**Publicly available data is mostly high-level asset/ops & annual/monthly energy use**

- Applications limited to benchmarking & screening

**Higher-resolution data must be manually collected & fused**

- Some private-sector platforms, e.g., Lucid BuildingOS

# Issue: Standardization

## Dictionaries

- Names for terms, values and temporal/spatial aggregations/reductions
- Examples: BEDES (building elements), Haystack (sensor/control “points”)

## Schema and model views

- Structure and relationships
- Examples: HPXML, BuildingSync, IFC/BIM, gbXML, Brick, CityGML, EnergyADE
- Minimal requirements for specific use cases
- Dictionary : Schema :: BEDES : BuildingSync

## Indices

- How do find/match a record in a database?
- Examples: address, Lat/Long, UBID

# Issue: Provenance & Provenance

**Upstream – quality ← where did this data come from?**

- How accurate is it? How complete? How frequently updated?
- Is it self-reported? Is it curated? Are there QA practices or measures?

**Downstream – terms of use/privacy ← who is allowed to do what with this data?**

- Are there restrictions on use? Publication? Redistribution?
- Are there anonymization/privacy measures?
- Can the data be matched/mashed with other data?
- Sensitivities & PII? Mosaic Issue?

# Role of Government

**Which issues are most significant – availability, standardization, or provenance?**

- Where can government play a meaningful and proper role?

## **1. Standardization**

- Clear need, market clamoring for solutions
- Traditional role for government or similar, no competition with private-sector
- Supports the greatest number of use cases → biggest bang for buck

## **2. Collection & upstream provenance**

- Open-source standard-compliant tools for reliable/accurate data collection (for some kinds of data)
- For some kinds of data and use-cases → avoid private-sector competition
- Data collection → availability → standard-compliance → uses → more data collection (virtuous cycle)

## **3. Publication & downstream provenance**

- Very limited activity here → emphasis on supporting research use & protecting privacy
- Perhaps encourage others to publish data, but not mandate or do it for them

# Discussion

Until 12:00

## **Part II: Standardization**

**Reducing Transaction Costs and Increasing Accessibility**

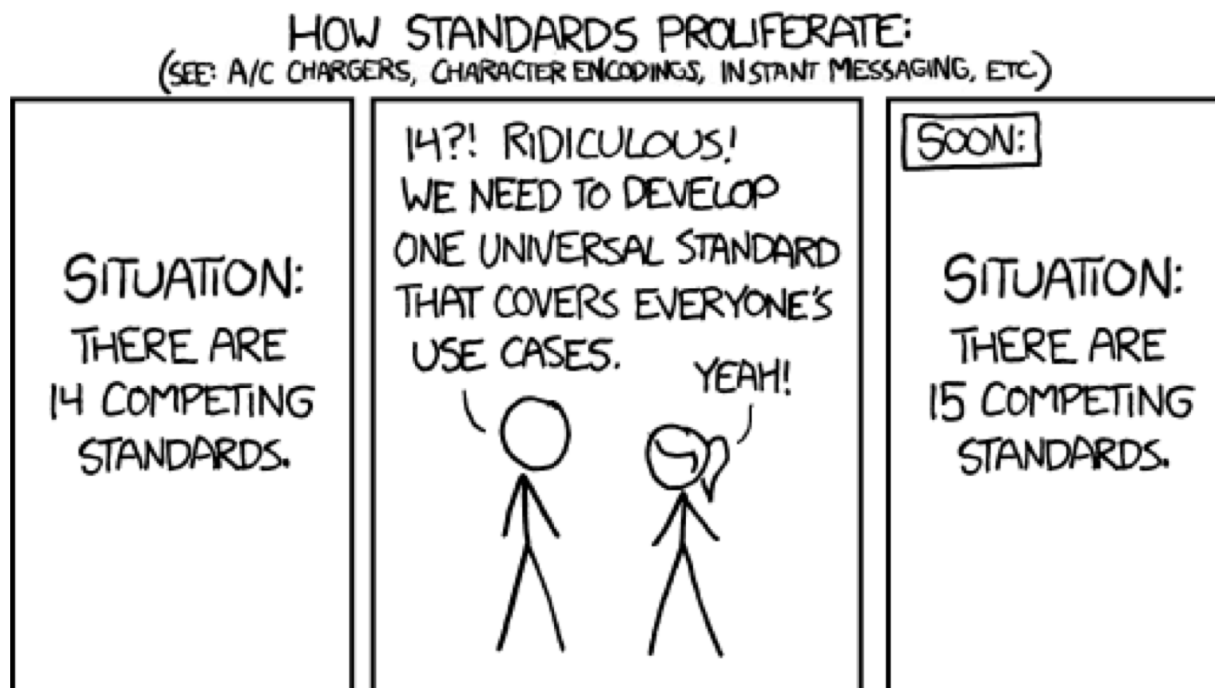
# Part II: Agenda

---

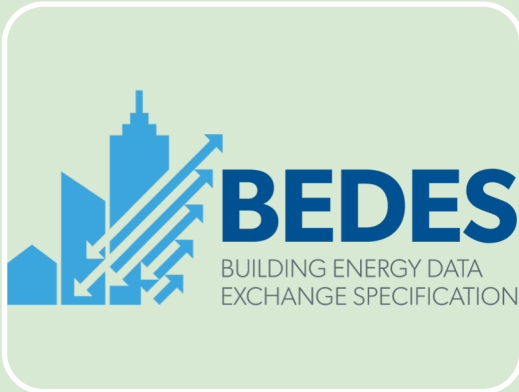
- **BEDES**
- **BuildingSync/HPXML**
- **UBID**



# Standardization Strategy



# Critical Elements of Standardization



Dictionary of  
Terms &  
Fields

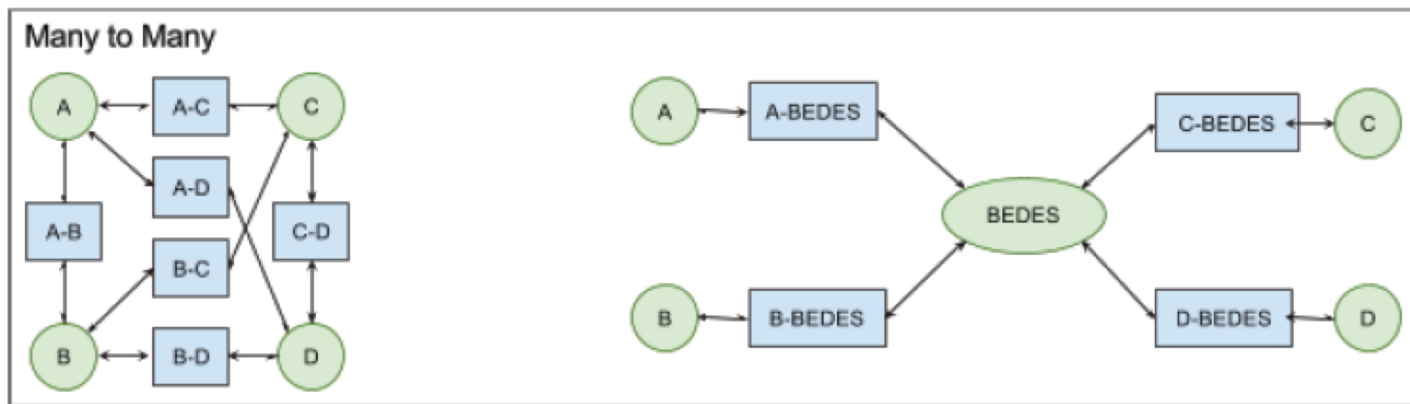
Schema to  
manage  
relationships

Index to  
identify  
records

# Dictionary: BEDES

***BEDES is a collection of terms and definitions** designed to facilitate the sharing of building characteristics and energy data among data collection and analysis tools/activities more easily, consistently, and at lower cost.*

Use BEDES as a “rosetta stone” to merge and exchange data across disparate datasets, e.g. property database, energy data, O&M data, etc.



[bedes.lbl.gov](http://bedes.lbl.gov)



# BEDES Adoption

*Over 30 organizations and applications have initiated or completed BEDES compliance*



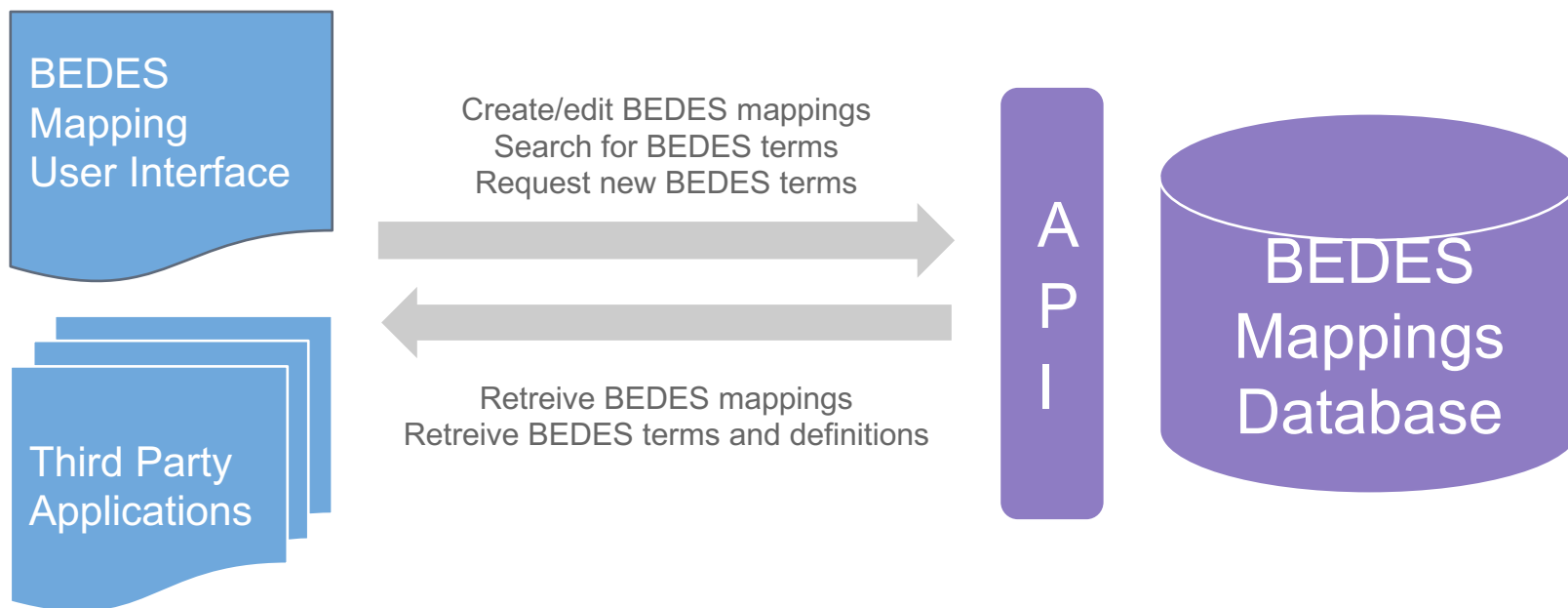
## BEDES Compliance

- Publish mapping
- Use BEDES in data import/export templates
- Use BEDES for multi-application data exchange



# Coming Soon: BEDES Mapping Manager

*An open-source tool to develop, maintain and use  
BEDES mappings*

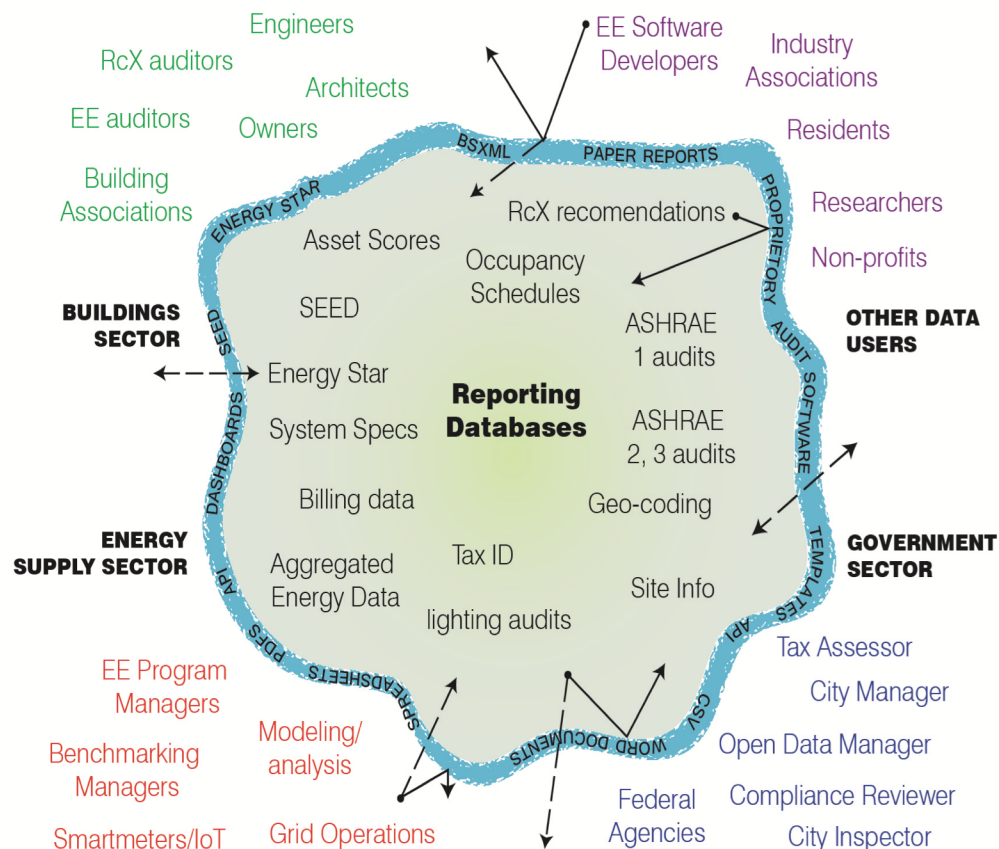


# BuildingSync: Barriers

## Problem Statement:

There are many consumers of commercial building data, including auditors, engineers, designers, operators, inspectors, researchers, etc. The data are typically provided in *varying formats with varying definitions*.

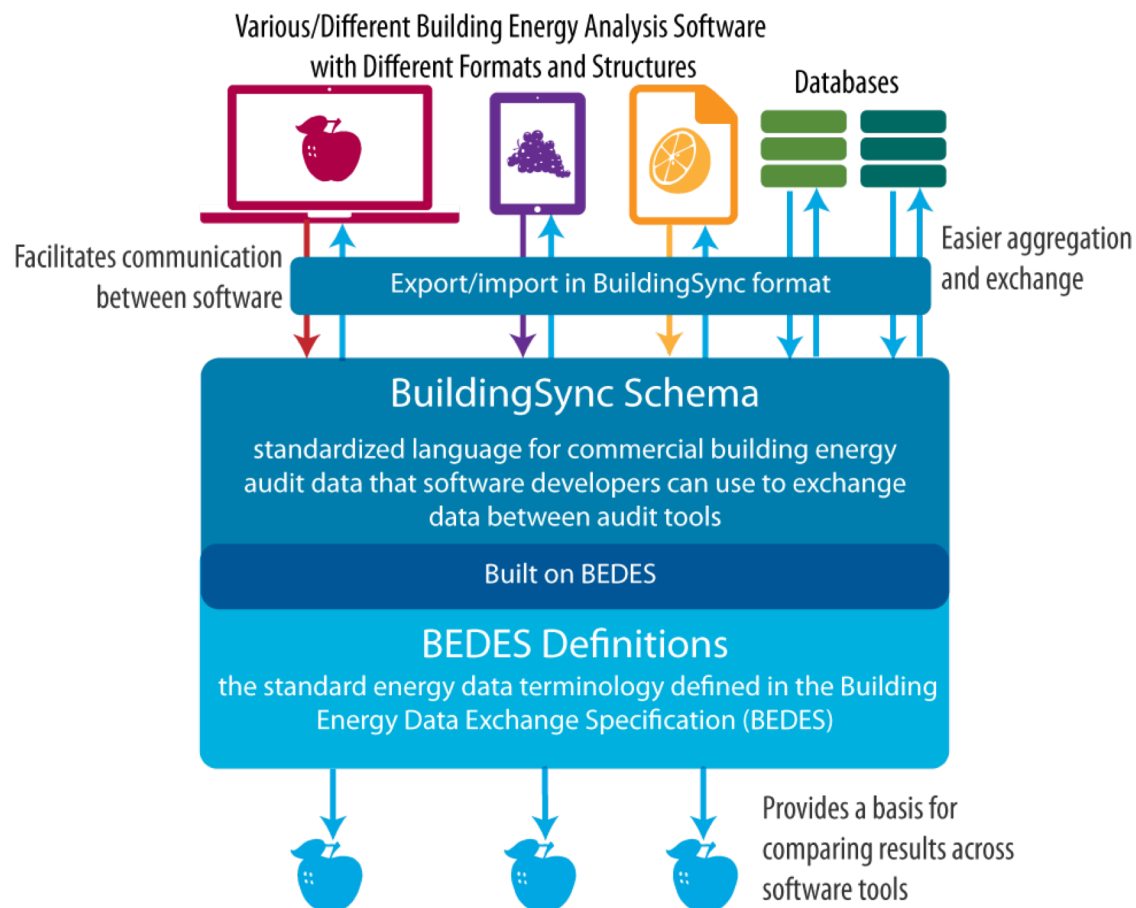
This **lack of standardization limits the data's usefulness**.



Credit: Amanda Lloyd, CBEI

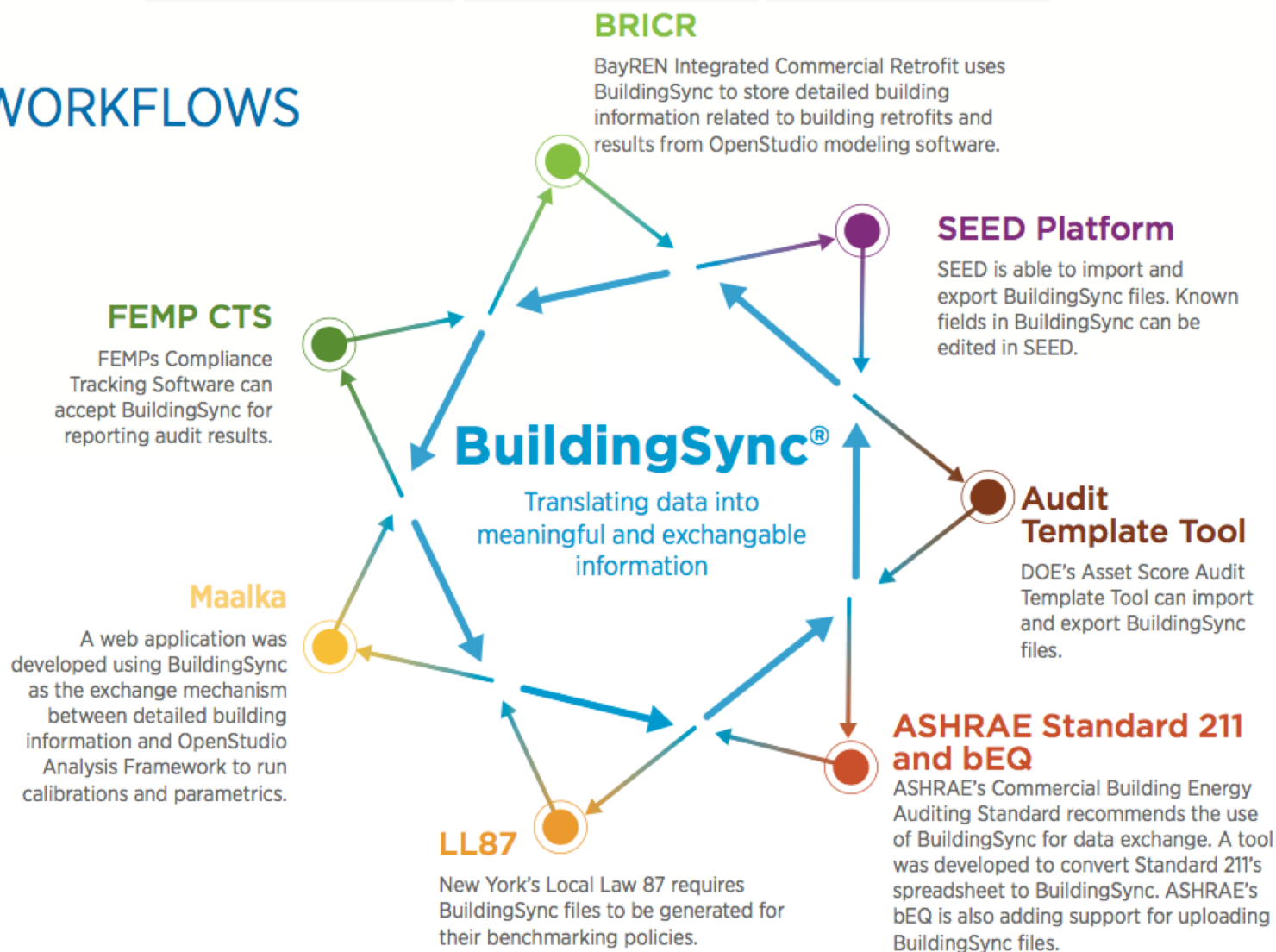
# What is BuildingSync?

- A common file format for energy audit data to streamline reporting and data transfer
- Directed by DOE and developed by NREL
- Built on Building Energy Data Exchange Specification (BEDES)
- Covers ASHRAE Standard 211 audit levels, bEQ
- ASHRAE TC 7.6 – Building Data Exchange



# BuildingSync: Adoption

## WORKFLOWS





# Unique Building Identification

The lack of a standardized way to identify buildings makes it difficult to accurately associate data with a specific facility, creating a barrier to effective asset management, research, and analysis.

## Where the current address system breaks down:

- Different address abbreviation, e.g., st or street; ave or avenue; apt or #;
- Simple misspellings or incorrect addresses
- Large buildings with multiple entrances and possibly multiple addresses

Assessor Database

CoStar Data

Covered Buildings  
List

CBL  
123 Main St  
456 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tax ID 5578

vs.  
or  
or  
or

ESPM  
123 Main Street  
789 Central Ave.  
Tax Lot 5577

Bldg 1

Bldg 2

Bldg 3

Bldg 4

Bldg 5

ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

# Unique Building Identification

## Grid Reference System



Grid reference systems identify locations using Cartesian coordinates to delineate regions of the map. UBID uses Open Location Code by Google Zürich (<http://plus.codes>) to identify the location of the center of mass of a shape.



## UBID Methodology

1. Determine shape of footprint.
2. Calculate center of mass of shape.
3. Identify grid cell that contains center of mass of shape.
4. Measure extent of bounding box for shape using grid cell.
5. Write UBID string: **87C4VW7W+JWH-12-15-9-9**

# Unique Building Identification

## Building Energy Data Analysis Accelerator

- Launched at 2018 Better Buildings Summit
- Goal: field validation for UBIDs; identify and create solutions for implementation barriers; quantify benefits in terms of energy saved, program efficacy, and operational benefits.

## Pilot Partners:

**Association for Energy  
Affordability**

**District of Columbia**

**Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA)**

**California Energy Commission**

**Institute for Market  
Transformation**

**San Francisco, CA**

**U.S. Green Building Council**

**Commercial Real Estate Data  
Alliance (CREDA)**

**Miami-Dade County, FL**

**San Jose, CA**

**Telecommunication Industry  
Association (TIA)**

# Discussion

Until 12:30

# Lunch

Reconvene at 1:30

# **Part III: Tools & Analytics**

## **Turning Data into Information**

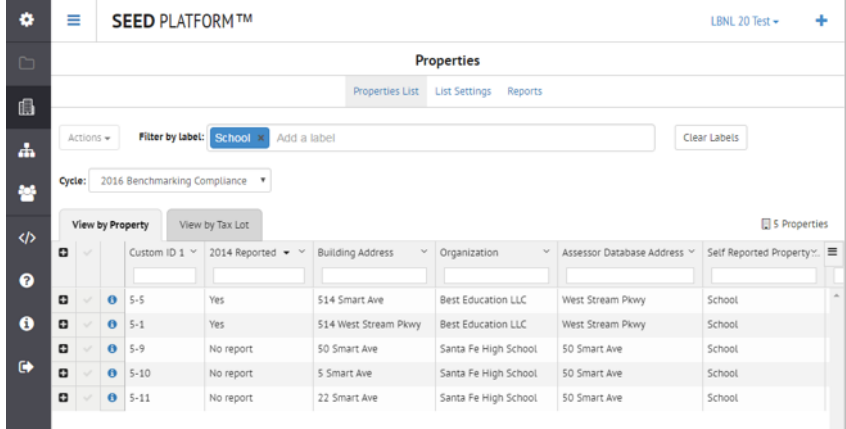
# Part III: Agenda

---

- **SEED**
- **Audit Template/Asset Score**
- **Building Performance Database (BPD)**
- **Energy Data Vault (EDV)**

# SEED Platform

- Open source database for building energy & attribute data
- Data management back-end hub for BTO tools portfolio



The screenshot shows the SEED PLATFORM interface. At the top, there's a header with 'SEED PLATFORM™' and a user profile 'LBNL 20 Test'. Below the header, there's a 'Properties' section with tabs for 'Properties List', 'List Settings', and 'Reports'. A filter bar shows 'Filter by label: School' and a 'Clear Labels' button. Below that, a 'Cycle' dropdown is set to '2016 Benchmarking Compliance'. The main table has two views: 'View by Property' and 'View by Tax Lot'. The table columns are: Custom ID 1, 2014 Reported, Building Address, Organization, Assessor Database Address, and Self Reported Property. The table contains 5 rows of data.

Custom ID 1	2014 Reported	Building Address	Organization	Assessor Database Address	Self Reported Property
S-5	Yes	S14 Smart Ave	Best Education LLC	West Stream Pkwy	School
S-1	Yes	S14 West Stream Pkwy	Best Education LLC	West Stream Pkwy	School
S-9	No report	50 Smart Ave	Santa Fe High School	50 Smart Ave	School
S-10	No report	5 Smart Ave	Santa Fe High School	50 Smart Ave	School
S-11	No report	22 Smart Ave	Santa Fe High School	50 Smart Ave	School

## DATA SOURCES

## AGGREGATION PLATFORM

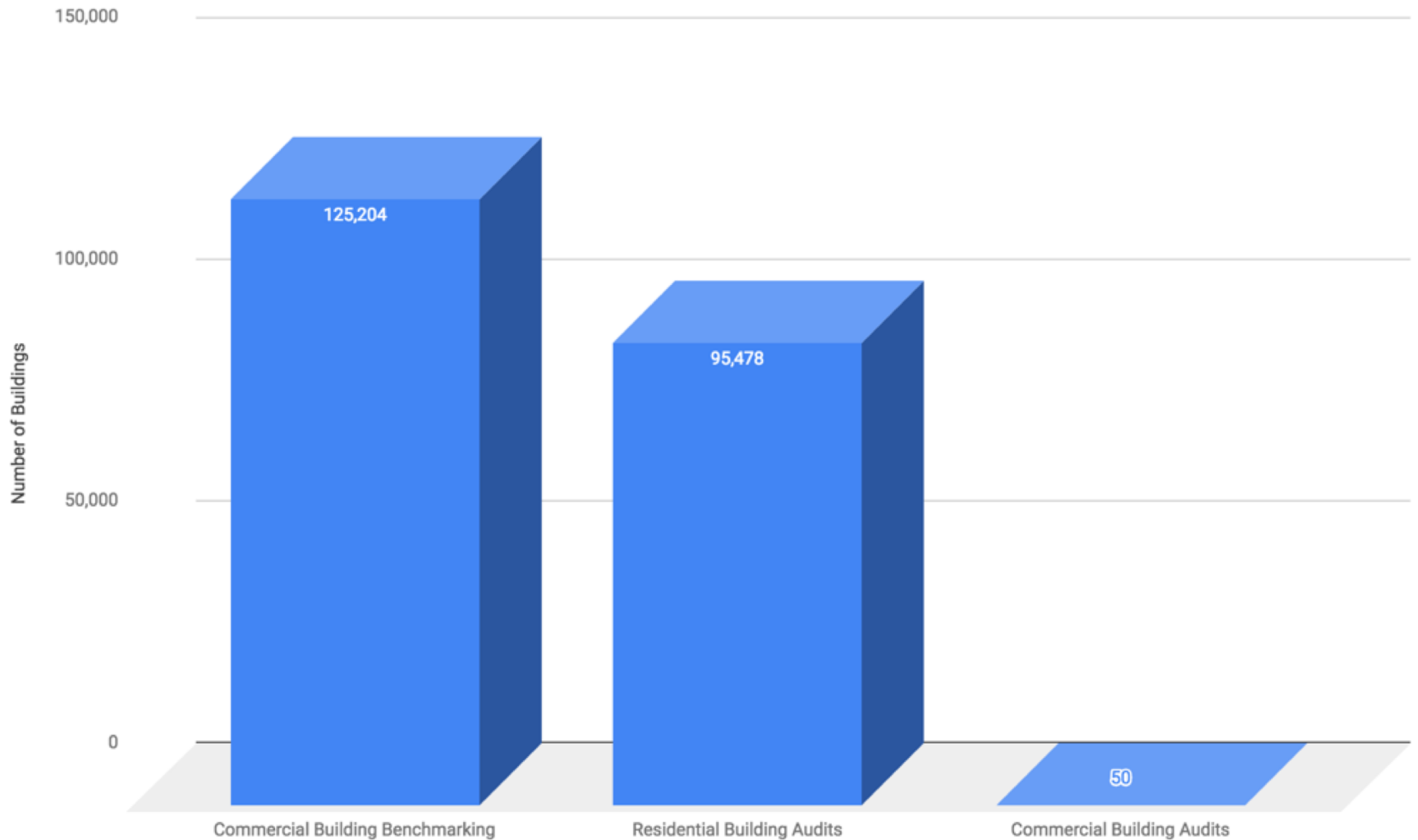
## OTHER TOOLS



Third Party Tools



# SEED Platform as a Platform



# SEED Platform as a Platform

3<sup>rd</sup> Party  
Applications



**BRICR**

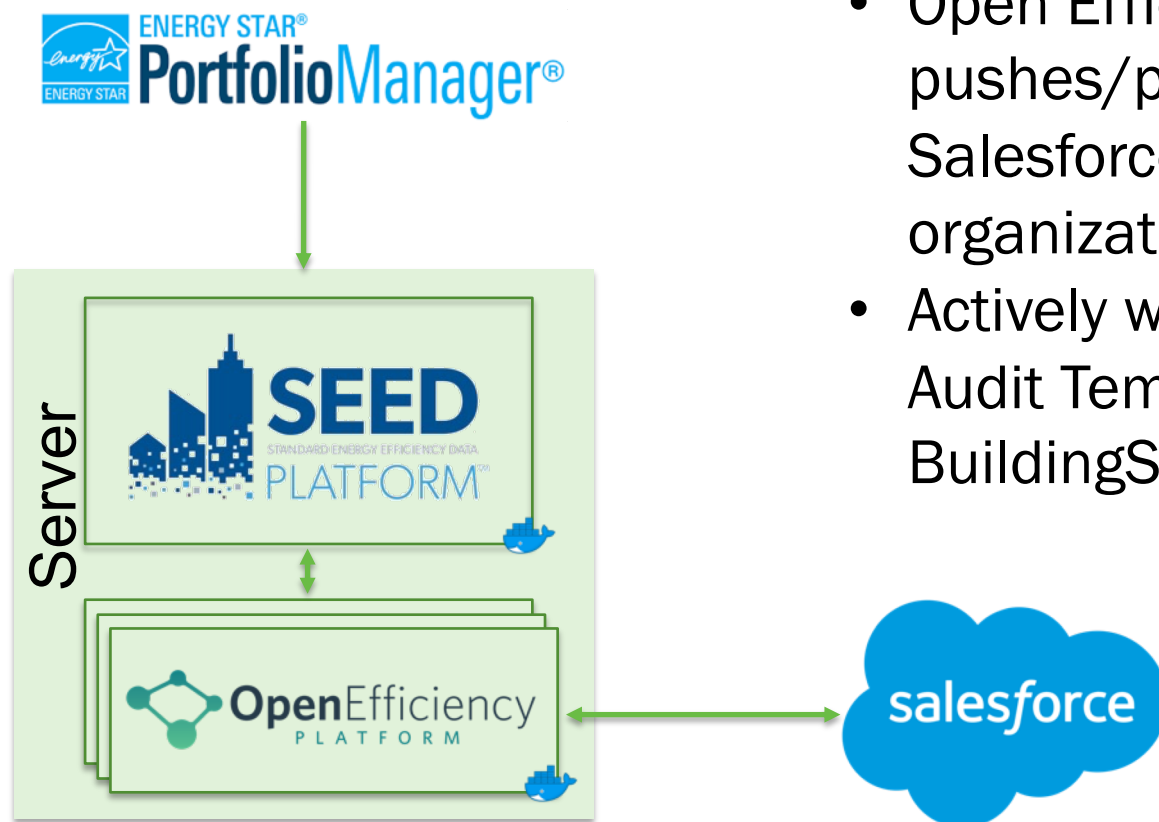


3<sup>rd</sup> Party Hosting  
and Application  
Providers



# SEED Platform as a Platform: City of SF

- SEED pull data from Portfolio Manager
- User manages records in SEED
- Open Efficiency Platform pushes/pulls data from Salesforce for each organization
- Actively working on connecting Audit Template data using BuildingSync

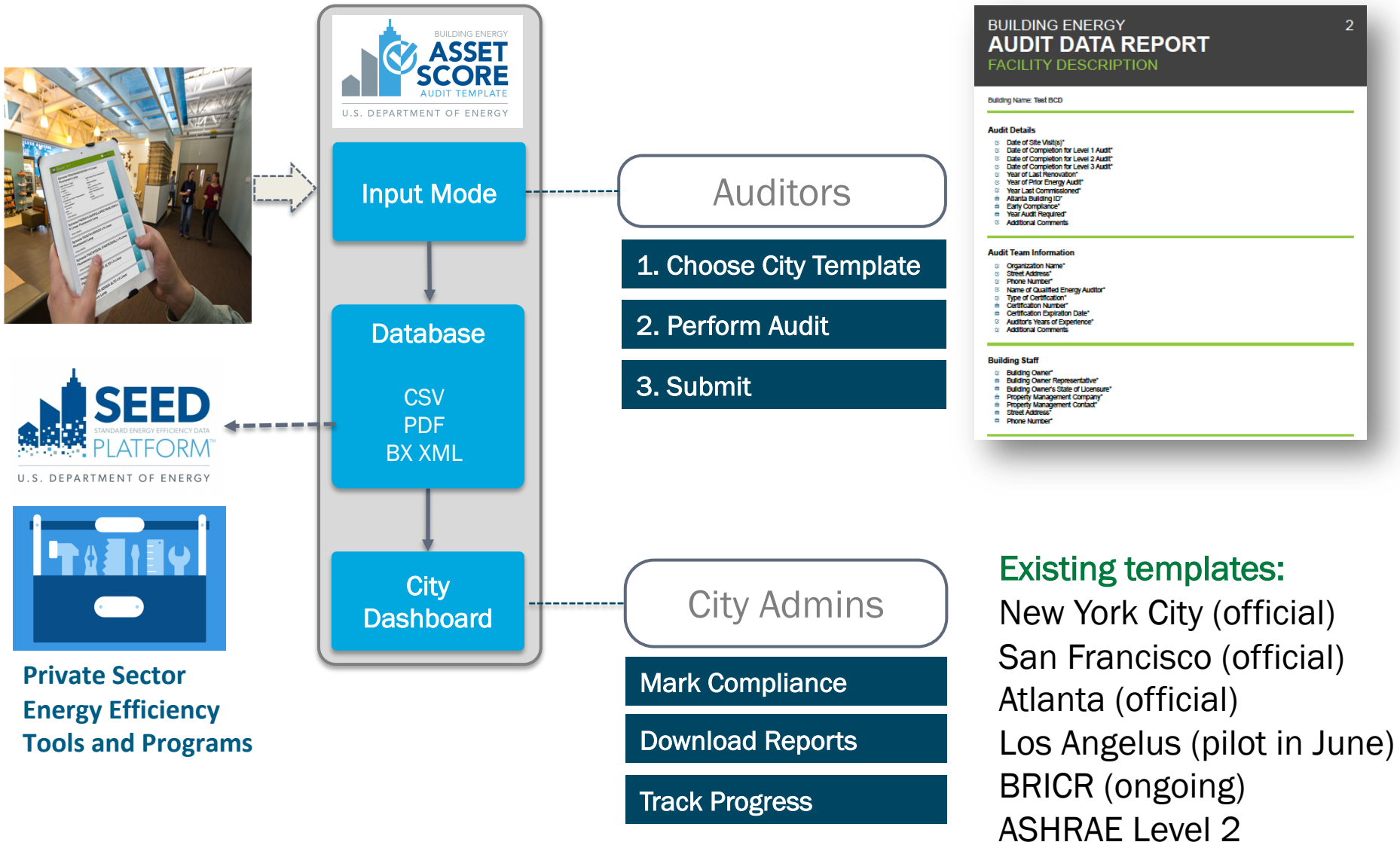


# Audit Template

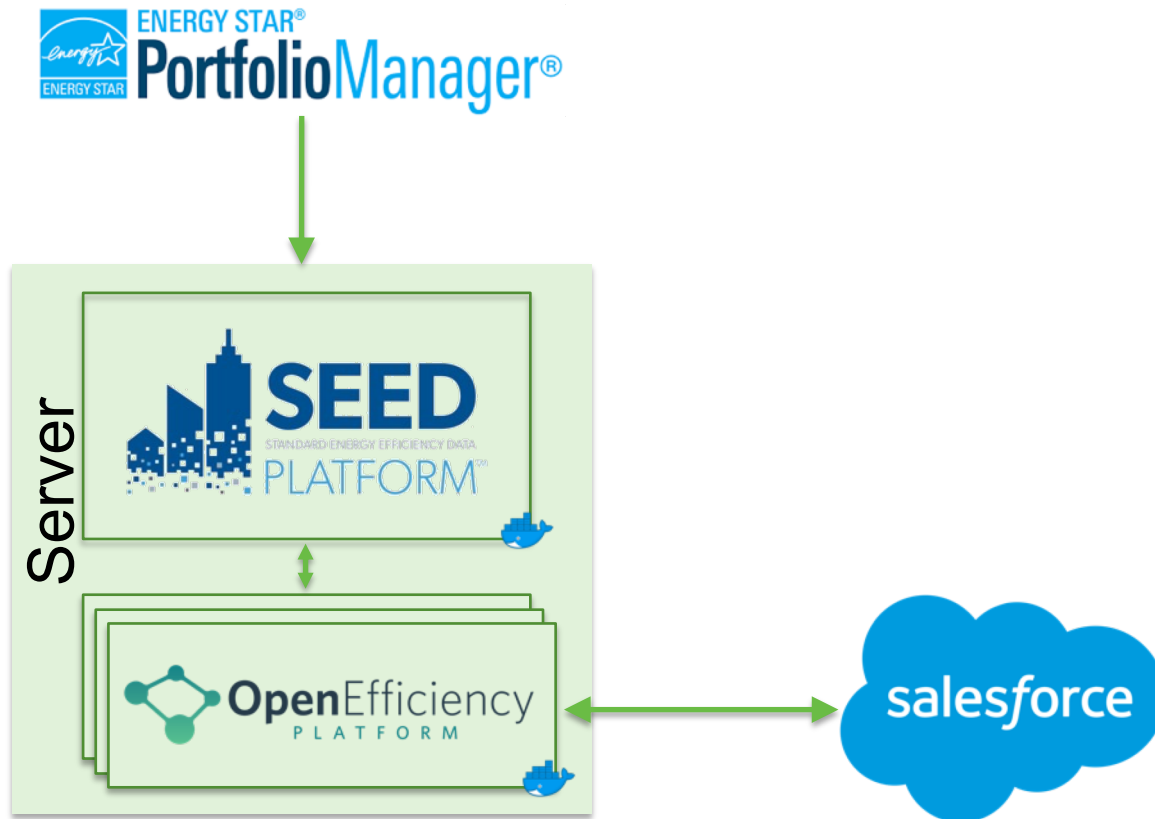
- **Standardizing inputs and outputs**
  - Align with new development of industry standard (ASHRAE Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits)
- **Leverage built-in capability for data quality control**
  - Automating error checking
  - Verifying required fields
  - Easy access to previously entered audit reports
  - Easy sharing and transferring building records
- **Seamless data transfer to other tools**
  - Integration of BuildingSync XML allows for seamless data transfer (SEED, third-party tools)



# Audit Template



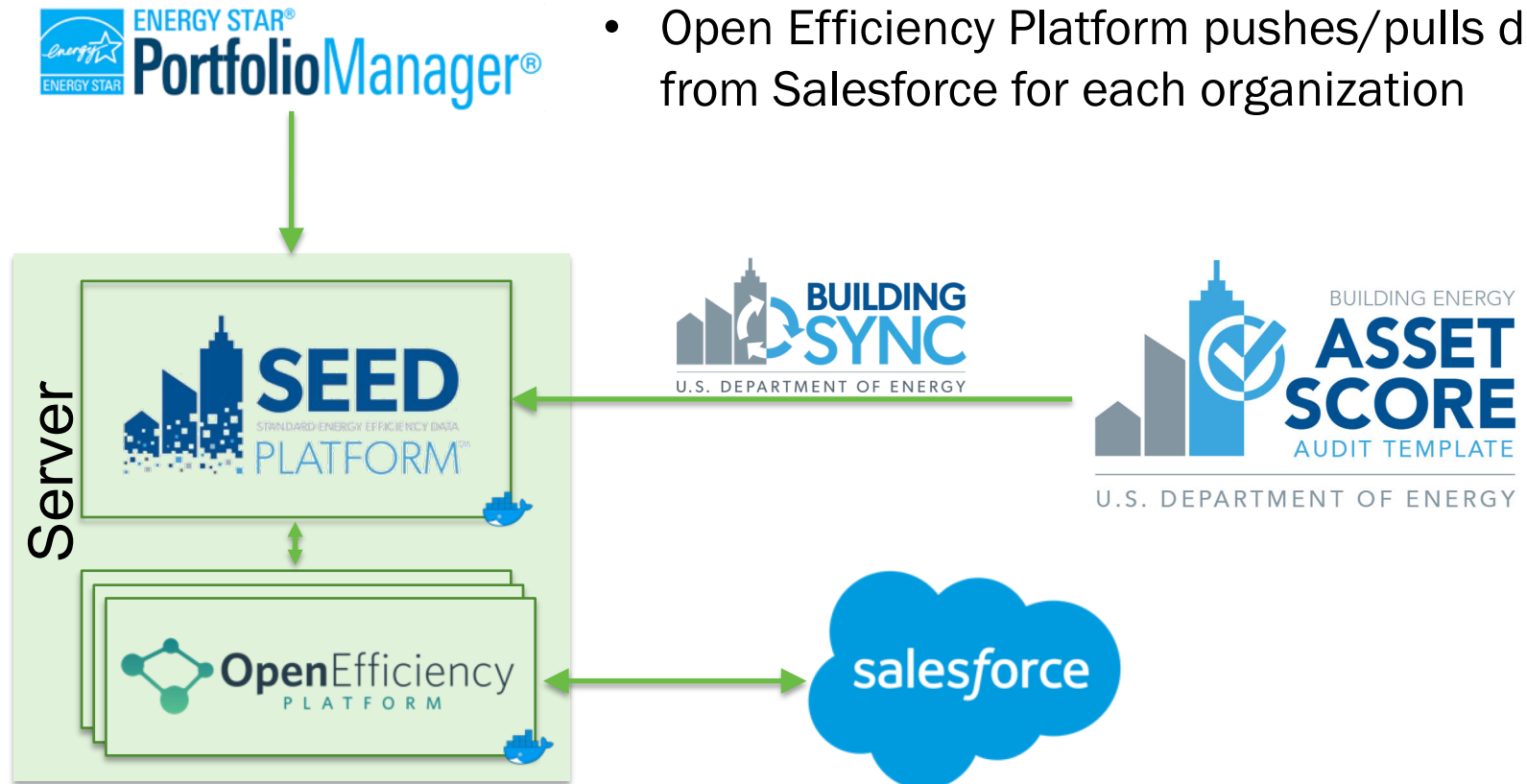
# SEED Platform as a Platform: City of SF



# SEED Platform as a Platform: City of SF

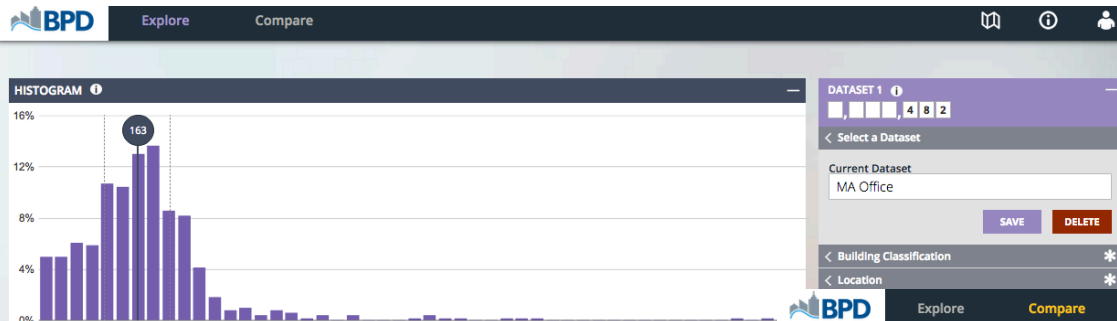
## Incorporating the Audit Data workflow

- User manages records in SEED – can merge benchmarking data from ESPM with BuildingSync files in one place
- Open Efficiency Platform pushes/pulls data from Salesforce for each organization

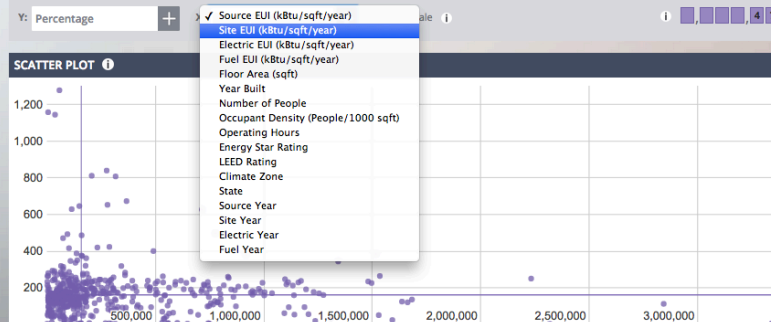


# Building Performance Database

- The nation's largest publicly-accessible dataset of information about the physical and operational characteristics of real buildings.
- Use BPD to compare your building's energy performance to customized peer groups



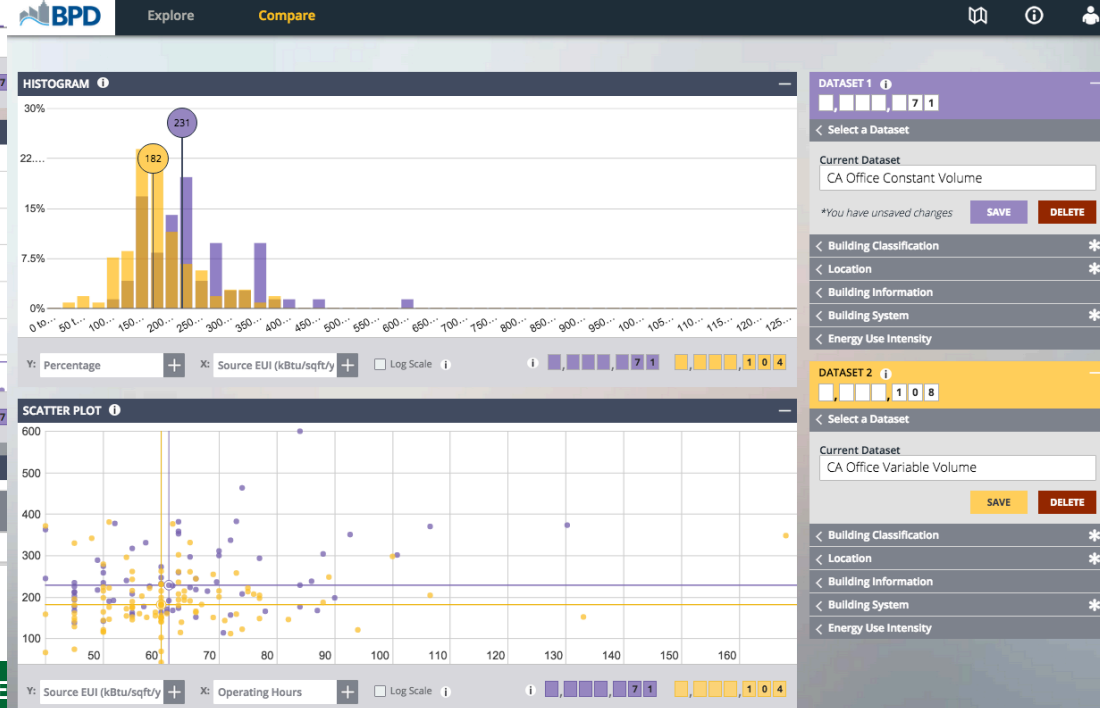
Over  
1 Million  
buildings



**TABLE**

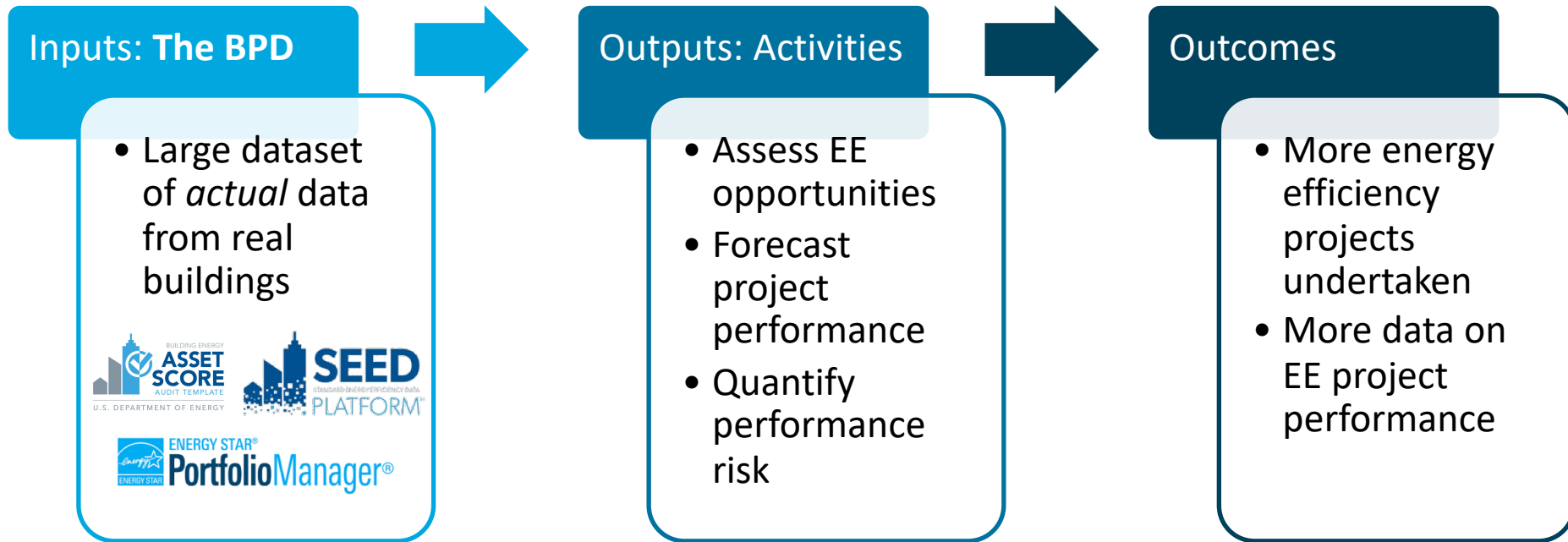
	Floor Area	Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	0 Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	100th Percentile
Summary		476	176.7	136.403	3.378	109.04	162.864	211.495	1234.788

[bpd.lbl.gov](http://bpd.lbl.gov)





# BPD Makes Data Available to a Broad Audience



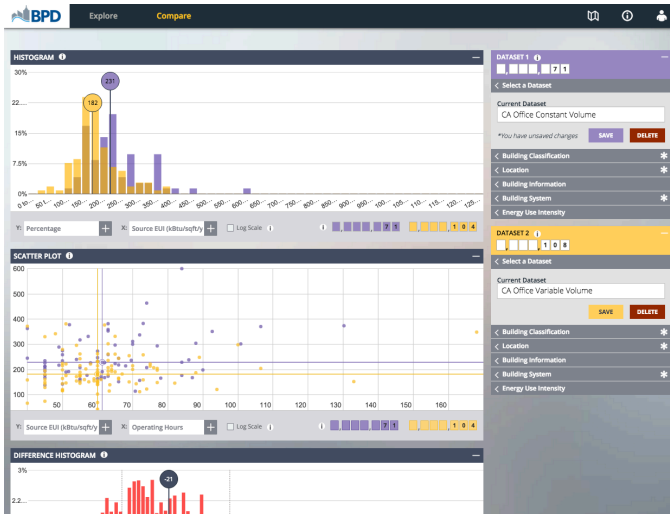
**Value for decision-makers (e.g., building owners, policy makers, service providers, financial and research institutions, utilities, program administrators):**

Analyze peer groups defined by geography or building-specific factors

- Regional markets
- Specific building or equipment types
- Range of energy use intensities

# BPD Users

## Analysis tool



- > 13,000 unique users since inception
- ~100-150 user sessions per week
- Referenced in ASHRAE 211 Standard for commercial building audits
- Referenced in ASTM draft standard for property condition assessments

## API licensees

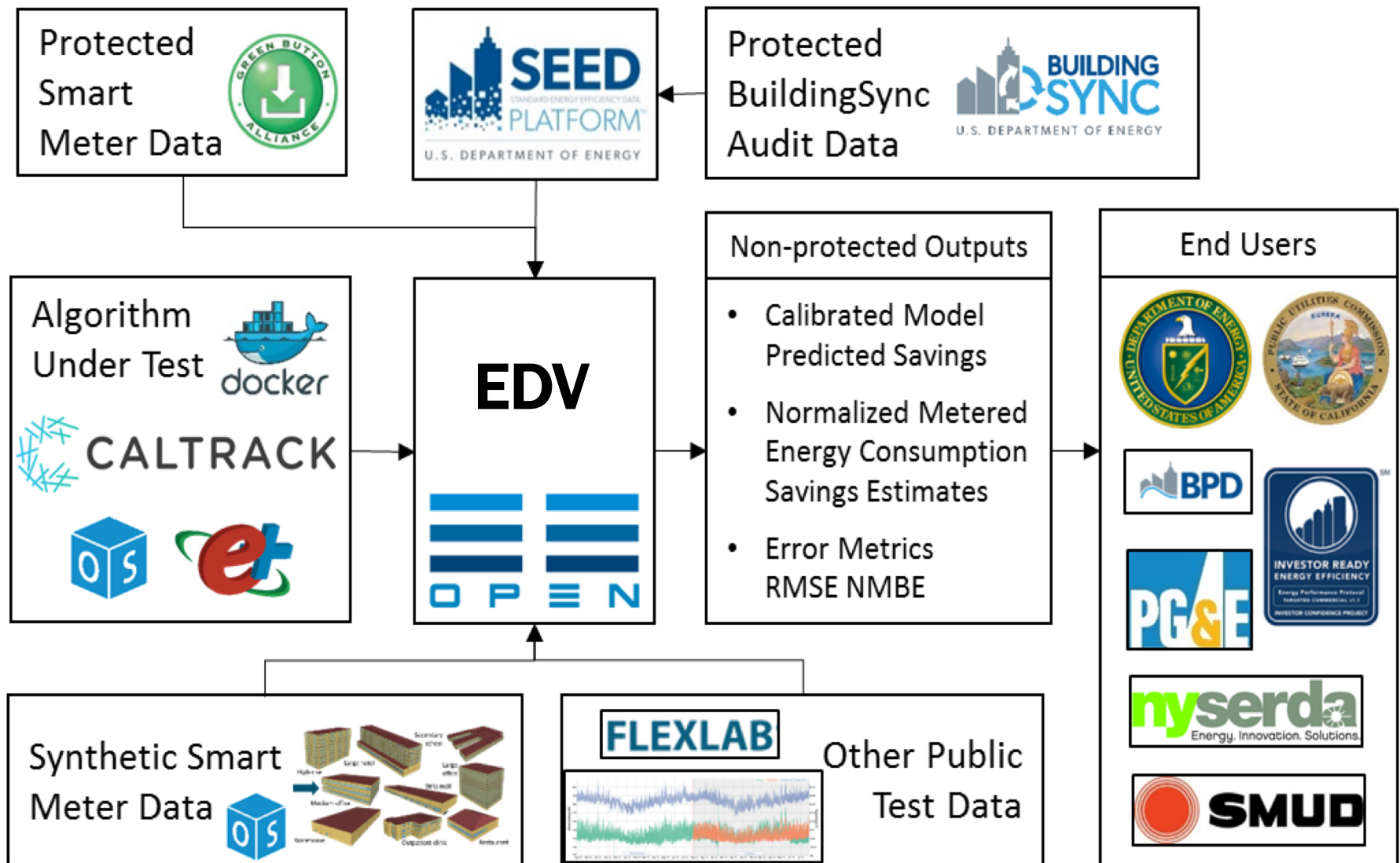
>60 API licensees



# Energy Data Vault

- **Customer energy data (particularly 15 minute data) is very sensitive, utilities guard it closely**
- **Need to evaluate performance and design, test, and compare new algorithms**
- **EDV will investigate:**
  - New privacy protection models to enable energy data access without needing explicit customer consent due to protection of PII
  - Synthetic smart meter data to evaluate algorithms
    - Energy savings calculations, non-routine adjustments, non-routine event detection, outlier rejection
  - Provide a standard environment for researchers to develop, test, and deploy algorithms
    - Connect to public/non-protected test data-sets for development
    - Connect to private/protected data-sets for operational deployment

# Energy Data Vault



# Discussion

Until 2:15

# **Part IV: Future Direction & Investments**

## **BED Subprogram Roadmap**

# Part IV: Agenda

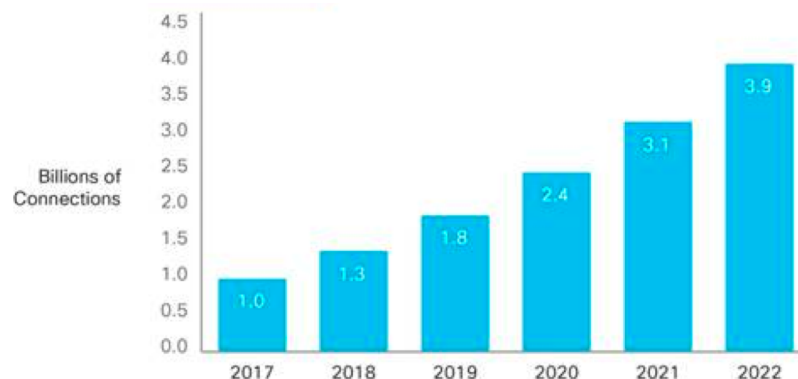
---

- **Consideration of Market Movement**
  - New tech, risks, and a lot more data
- **New FY18/19 Investments**
  - Brick Schema
  - AirBEM
  - Unstructured Data

# Market Movement

- **New technologies are emerging:** AI, ML, Blockchain, etc.
- **High-level risks:** Cybersecurity & Privacy
- **New data being generated:**
  - MELs
  - “Internet of Things”
  - Increasing M2M connections
    - 32% CAGR (2017-22)
- **New market actors:**
  - When your home can be controlled by your Alexa, or your Nest, what does that mean for utility demand response programs?

Global Machine-to-Machine Growth  
(Source: Cisco VNI Mobile 2019)





# Role for BTO

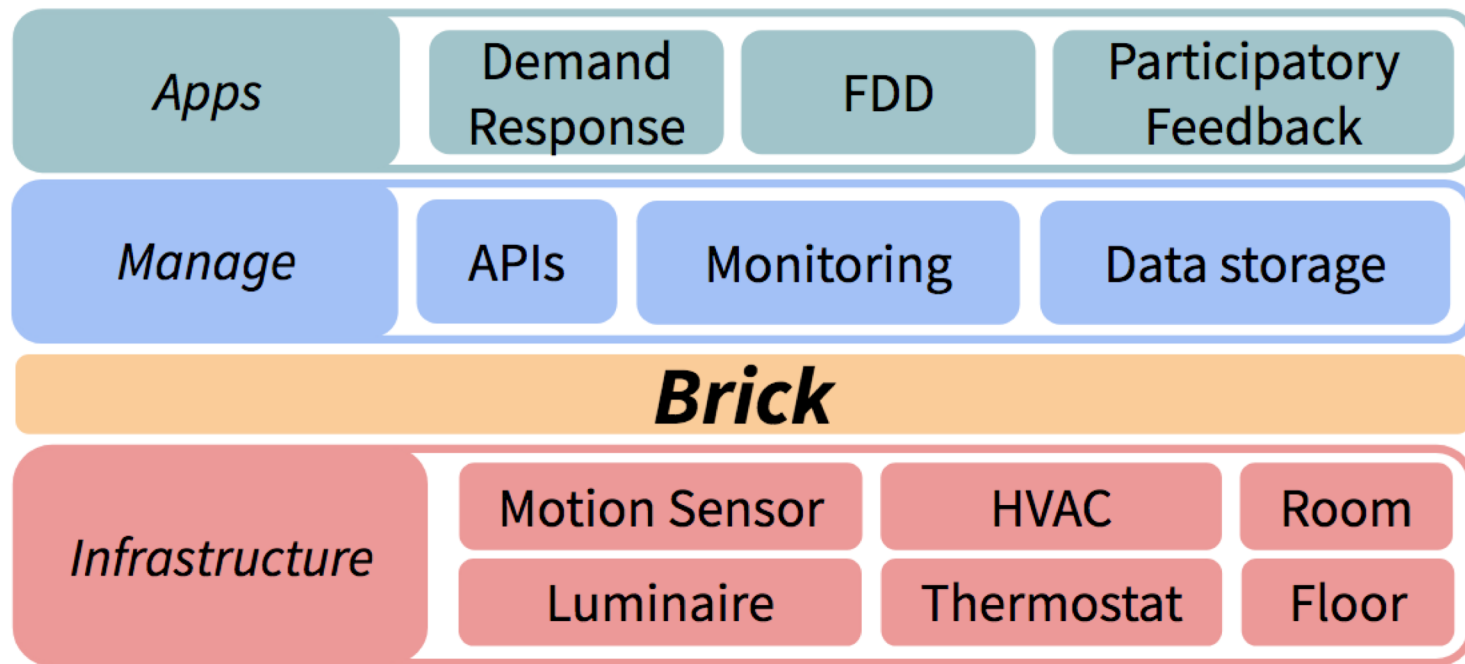
---

## Given Market Movement, BTO will focus on:

- Continued work on Standardization
- Interoperability (*Session Tuesday at 2:30*)
- Miscellaneous Energy Loads (*Session Tuesday at 2:00*)
- Leveraging new & unstructured data sources
- Data to enable grid-interactive efficient buildings (GEB)

# Brick Schema + Structured Metadata

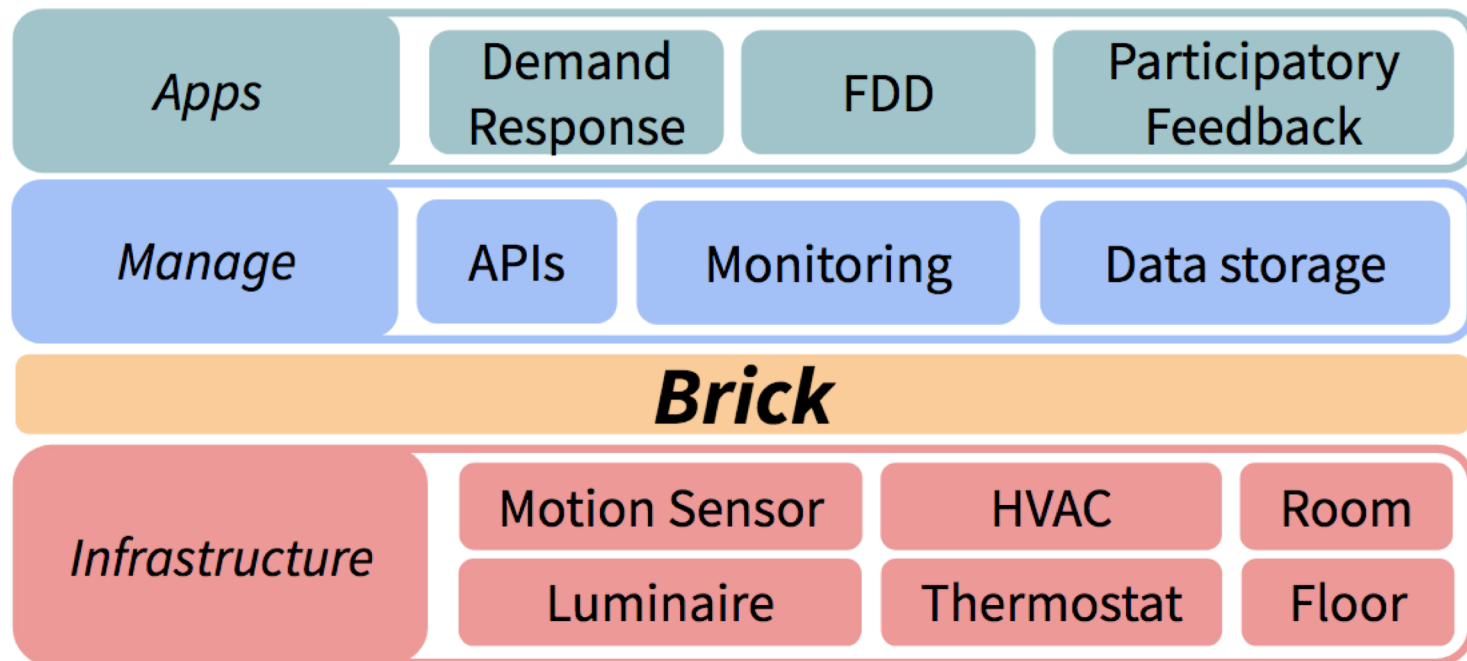
(Feb. 28, 2018) – The ASHRAE BACnet committee, Project Haystack and the Brick initiative announced they are actively collaborating to integrate Haystack tagging and Brick data modeling concepts into the new proposed ASHRAE Standard 223P for semantic tagging of building data.



# Brick Schema + Structured Metadata

Goal: “Succeed fast” in the controls space by:

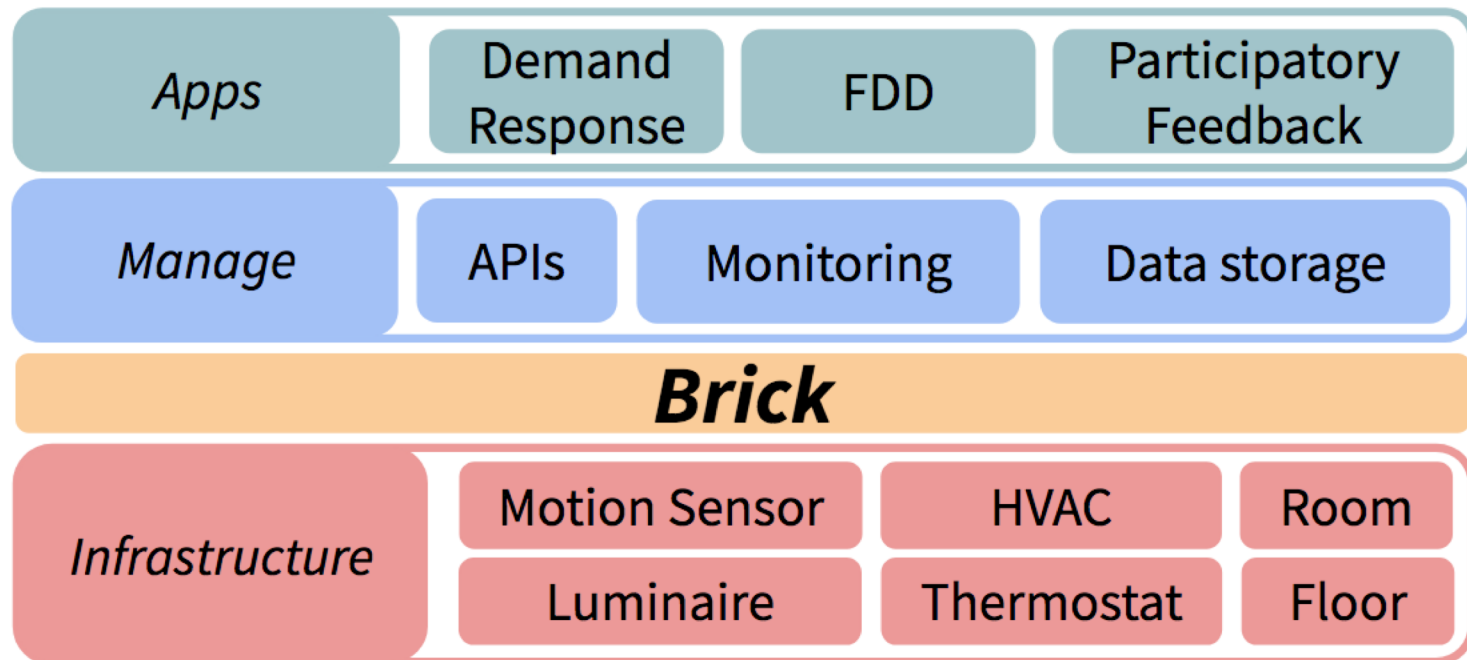
- Mappings and translations for control applications.
- Application-informed schema development, alignment, and standardization.
- Schema management tools.
- Partnerships and technology transfer.



# Brick Schema + Structured Metadata

Complimentary BTO projects:

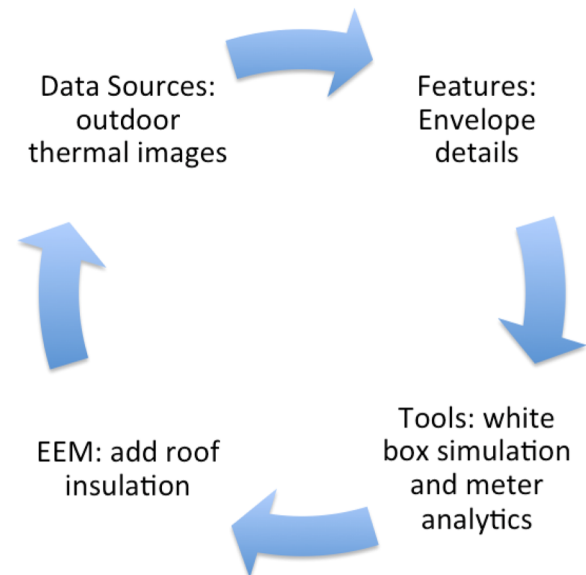
- BEDES
- BuildingSync
- Alfalfa/BOPTEST
- VOLTTRON
- Spawn
- Open Building Control (OBC)



- **UAV-based envelope auditing procedure**
  - Goal: to be within 5% of an EnergyPlus model using current best practices for envelope heat/loss simulation.
  - Goal: reduce ASHRAE 211 detailed envelope inspection audit time by 60-75% (1-4 hours for 100k ft<sup>2</sup> building) and generate a BEM report in 1-3 days that shows retrofit opportunities that save 5-30% on monthly energy spend.
- **Approach**
  - Use off-the-shelf ready photogrammetry software to generate 3D surface and thermal models of buildings from geocoded visible and IR spectrum remote sensing technologies.
  - Computing contained on board UAV.

# Unstructured Data

- Develop automated approaches to determine building characteristics and efficiency opportunities using unstructured data from a subset of three categories:
  - Public data – disclosure and permit records
  - Imagery – RGB (Red, Green, Blue), thermal and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), acquired via satellite or aerial methods (airplanes or drones)
  - Meter and weather data
- **Opportunity Analysis: Which EEMs are identifiable from what data sources?**
  - Process: Map EEMs → Data Source → Feature → Tool



# Summary & Review

# Summary & Review

- **BTO's Role:** standardization, interoperability, provenance
- **Future:**
  - Automated data processing
  - Automated point-mapping with well managed metadata
  - Geospatial anchoring for indices via UBID
  - “Sliding scale” for spatial granularity of data & nested analyses across tools
    - i.e.: country → region → city → district → building → floor → room → system → endpoint
  - Heavy lifting for analysis, computing, etc. is private sector service



# Discussion

Until 3:30

Thank You

Harry.Bergmann@ee.doe.gov

# Appendix